GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3700
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2016
Functioning of PRIs
Sanjar Shri Alok

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

a) the number of Panchayati Raj Institutions functioning in the country as on date, State/UT-wise;
b) whether the Union Government have constituted any monitoring units to review their functioning;
c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
d) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the working of Panchayati Raj institutions in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a): As per available information, the total number of District Panchayats, Intermediate Panchayats and Gram Panchayats in the country are 595, 6284 and 247155, respectively. State/UT- wise details of various tiers of Panchayats are given at Annexe.

(b) & (c): No, Madam. Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has not constituted any monitoring units to review the functioning of Panchayats. MoPR in its overseeing role reviews the implementation of the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution from time to time through meetings and discussions with the States. The annual Devolution Index Report and the State of Panchayati Raj Reports commissioned by the MoPR assess the policy and legislative framework and outcomes of the State in respect of Panchayati Raj.

(d): The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has been taking several steps to strengthen the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the States and Union Territories covered under Part IX of the Constitution through provisioning of financial and technical assistance under the schemes and programmes of the government and issue of advisories from time to time. The various measures taken include incentivizing the States which have devolved more functions, funds and functionaries to Panchayats, providing financial and technical assistance for capacity building of Panchayats to enable them to perform the devolved functions effectively and efficiently, strengthening systems of budgeting, accounting and auditing, development of software applications and imparting training for their use to bring in transparency, accountability and efficiency in their functioning, incentive awards to the selected best performing Panchayats and assisting the States in formulation of detailed guidelines for preparation of participatory Gram Panchayat Development Plans by the Gram Panchayats utilising the resources available at their command.

During the years 2012-13 to 2016-17, the MoPR has released Rs 1831.94 crore to States for capacity building activities. Under the Fourteenth Finance Commission award, grants to the tune of Rs. 2,00,292.20 crore for the period from 2015 to 2020 are being devolved to Gram Panchayats for delivery of basic services, preparation of audited accounts and for improvement of own source revenue of the Gram Panchayats.
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